

June 2021

FIRST CONVICTION IN ENGLAND FOR TREASURE ACT OFFENCE

The Rural Engagement Team, in particular Pc's Andy Long and Jed Raven, secured the first conviction in England relating to theft and failing to report treasure.

The officers worked in partnership with The British Museum and Historic England. They conducted a first class investigation into illegal metal detecting resulting in a couple being convicted at Chelmsford Magistrates Court.

It all began when a 62 year old man trespassed on land close to Chelmsford for the purpose of metal detecting. He discovered what is believed to be one of the largest hoards of Iron Age coins in the UK, a total of 933 ancient gold coins known as staters.


He recovered the hoard over several days but he and his partner failed to notify the Coroner's 'finds officer' and decided to keep some of the coins for themselves.



He eventually approached the land owner who notified the Coroners officer. Pc's Long and Raven became suspicious when they read an article regarding the find in a magazine and noticed that some coins were not accounted for. They visited the man's home and found him in a field nearby where he was engaging in illegal metal detecting. He was arrested and his home was searched.



For up-to-date information
about **Coronavirus (COVID-19)**
in Essex, please check
essex.gov.uk/coronavirus*
and make sure you
#StaySafeEssex

 thurrock.gov.uk

* in **Thurrock**, please check
thurrock.gov.uk/coronavirus

 southend-on-sea.gov.uk

or in **Southend-on-Sea**, please check
southend-on-sea.gov.uk/coronavirus

Now there's a quick
online alternative to
calling 101 or visiting
a police station:
DIGITAL 101



Do it online at:
essex.police.uk

**IN AN EMERGENCY
ALWAYS CALL 999**

Continued....

The officers recovered the outstanding 23 gold coins at an estimated value of over £12000.

Following a guilty plea by both, the man was issued a fine and ordered to carry out 200 hours of unpaid work. He was ordered to forfeit his metal detector. His partner was issued a fine for her part in the crime.

Pc Long said 'this prosecution demonstrates that we take heritage crime seriously. This type of offence not only steals from the land owner but also from the nation by stealing our history'.

Their work was recognised by the Crown Prosecution Service who described the result as an 'excellent result'. They also received a personal thanks from the Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor for the East of England.



Andy and Jed pictured next to their pride and joy, their new vehicle.

The Head of Heritage Crime Strategy, Historic England commented 'The new branding looks great. Essex are the first force in England to show the heritage thematic on operational vehicles'

FLYING HIGH AGAIN



Good news – following a brief time without it, we've got our drone back and our drone pilots have requalified.

Our drone had been offline for a while due to both

technical and training issues however all has been resolved and we're ready to go.

Training has been given to the team to allow our officers to assist with the flight of the drone. The responsibility for flight safety remains with the pilot and the newly trained officers will operate the camera and gather the evidence.

This new training gives us better flexibility with the deployment and more availability of the drone.

You can register your drone at The UK Civil Aviation Authority where you can also find the rules on drone flight

The Countryside Code



Your guide to enjoying parks and waterways, coast and countryside

Respect everyone

- be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside
- leave gates and property as you find them
- do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking
- be nice, say hello, share the space
- follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available

Protect the environment

- take your litter home - leave no trace of your visit
- do not light fires and only have BBQs where signs say you can
- always keep dogs under control and in sight
- dog poo - bag it and bin it - any public waste bin will do
- care for nature - do not cause damage or disturbance

Enjoy the outdoors

- check your route and local conditions
- plan your adventure - know what to expect and what you can do
- enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory

www.gov.uk/countryside-code



The Countryside Code



Follow advice and local signs

In some cases, additional higher rights of access or permissive access could exist.

Footpath



Bridleway



Restricted Byway



Byway open to all traffic



Permissive Path

Follow advice on local signs as landowners voluntarily provide access to these paths and choose who can use them. Some open access areas are also made available in the same way.



National Trail

National Trails are created for walking, with horse-riding and cycling possible on some trails or trail sections.

www.nationaltrail.co.uk



Open Access

You can walk and explore away from paths.

www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk

For further information visit www.gov.uk/countryside-code

The Rural Engagement Team are part of the Local Policing Support Unit and as such are often called upon to assist in areas other than our main day to day business.



Not deterred by the unpleasant weather the team spent the day assisting with enforcement regarding fishing legislation. Twenty eight people were spoken to and three were reported for related offences.

The team together with the Environment Agency & Angling Trust patrolled waterways close to Chelmsford.

Here Pc Clare Dawson is seen testing out her sea legs on Hanningfield Reservoir.



Love Fishing ? Get your rod licence at

www.gov.uk/get-a-fishing-licence

Or visit your local post office or call **0344 800 5386.**

If you see or suspect illegal fishing activity -report it to the Environment Agency 24 hour hotline on 0800 807060

NFU ISSUE ADVICE REGARDING GPS THEFT

NFU are urging farmers to review their security following theft of GPS systems in East Anglia and other parts of the country. The regional offences occurred in Norfolk however Essex residents should remain vigilant. NFU Mutual is issuing the following advice

- ◆ Activate PIN security on GPS kit with your own unique number if available
- ◆ If your system is not pin enabled, mark your postcode to deter thieves and trace your property back to you.
- ◆ Keep tractors and combines with GPS fitted stored out of sight when possible.

- ◆ Remove GPS kit when possible from tractors and other machinery and store it securely when not in use.
- ◆ Record serial numbers and photograph your kit.
- ◆ Check serial numbers of second-hand kit offered for sale.





WOULD YOU LIKE TO DRIVE ONE OF THESE?

Have you considered a career in Policing or how about doing so as a volunteer?

Special Constables have the same powers, uniforms, training and equipment as regular officers but give up their spare time to do so.

As a Special Constable you'll be valued, supported and integrated into the wider policing family. You'll learn new skills and be able to make a difference in the community in which you serve.

Ready for a new challenge? Contact us at - recruitment.business.services@essex.pnn.police.uk

YOU SAID—WE DID !

The world can be fast paced but it shouldn't be through your village.

Last month we said that if you contacted us we would come to your village and that's exactly what the residents of Wakes Colne did.

We kept to our word and Nige and Sam conducted a speed check. Several drivers were given strong guidance and two of those reported for speeding.

If you too would like a visit, please email us.

Op Proud—watch your speed and keep our villages and rural roads safe.



Digital 101

You can report non-emergency crime by calling **101** or by using **Digital 101**, our quick and easy to use online service that's available at any time.

Digital 101 is available on the Essex Police website: [essex.police.uk](https://www.essex.police.uk)



If you, or anyone you know, is interested in protecting and serving Essex, you can follow us on social media, or search **#FitTheBill**

**#FIT THE
BILL**